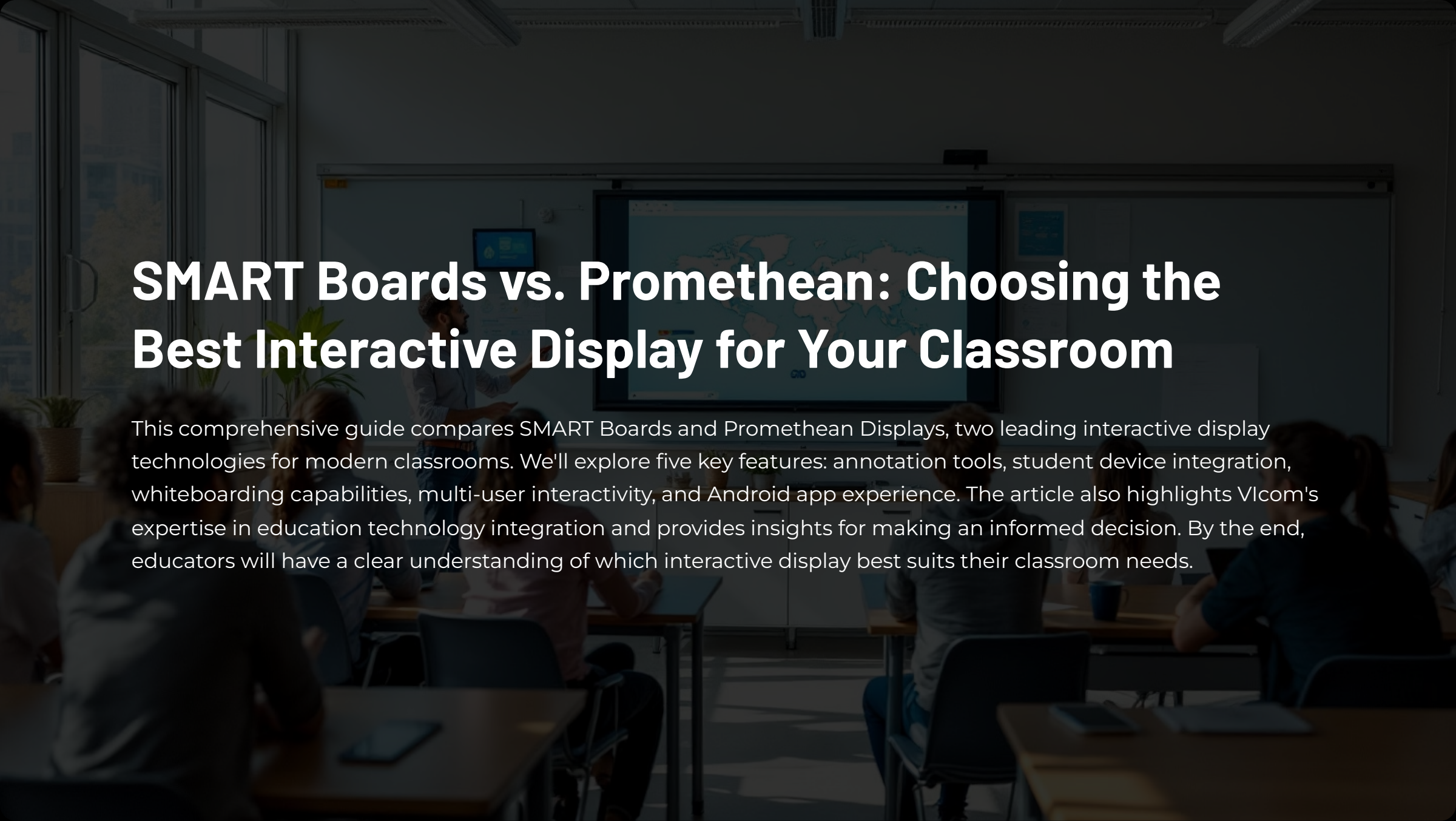




SMART Boards vs. Promethean: Choosing the Best Interactive Display for Your Classroom

This comprehensive guide compares SMART Boards and Promethean Displays, two leading interactive display technologies for modern classrooms. We'll explore five key features: annotation tools, student device integration, whiteboarding capabilities, multi-user interactivity, and Android app experience. The article also highlights Vcom's expertise in education technology integration and provides insights for making an informed decision. By the end, educators will have a clear understanding of which interactive display best suits their classroom needs.

The Role of Interactive Displays in Modern Classrooms

Interactive displays have become essential tools in today's tech-integrated classrooms, transforming traditional teaching methods into immersive and engaging learning experiences. These advanced technologies offer numerous benefits:



Enhanced Engagement

Interactive displays make complex ideas more accessible and engaging for students.



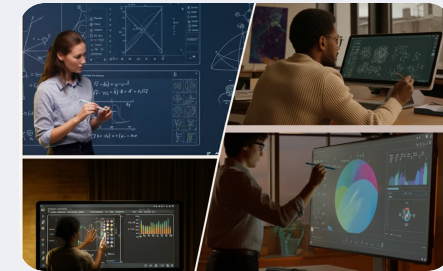
Collaborative Learning

They foster collaboration and support diverse teaching styles.



Real-time Interaction

Teachers can annotate directly on screen and integrate student devices for immediate collaboration.



Versatility

Interactive displays cater to the evolving needs of modern pedagogy.

Choosing the right interactive display solution means finding a balance between usability, features, and support to ensure long-term educational value. This decision significantly impacts how students learn and how teachers deliver their lessons.

Annotation Tools: SMART Boards vs. Promethean Displays

SMART Boards

- Lead with seamless SMART Ink technology
- Annotations remain consistent across apps and tabs
- Ink tool activates automatically when pen is picked up
- Intuitive design keeps lessons flowing without interruptions

Promethean Displays

- Offer basic annotation capabilities through ActivInspire or Android ink tools
- Require multiple steps to switch between writing and interacting with content
- Annotations don't carry over between apps
- Can disrupt lesson momentum

For educators seeking efficiency and ease in annotation, SMART Boards are the clear winner in this category. Their intuitive design and consistent annotation experience across applications provide a smoother teaching experience.

Integration with Student Devices

In today's digital classrooms, seamless integration with student devices is crucial for interactive and collaborative learning. Let's compare how SMART Boards and Promethean Displays handle this integration:

SMART Boards with iQ

- Offer two-way integration
- Students can connect without creating accounts
- Teachers can broadcast content directly to student devices
- Built-in polling and brainstorming tools
- Seamless, built-in solution for device integration

Promethean Displays

- Lack an included solution for robust student-device integration
- ClassFlow platform discontinued in 2023
- Now offer only a paid subscription option through Explain Everything
- Support limited to up to eight devices
- Significant limitations for larger classrooms

SMART Boards provide a superior experience for educators looking to harness the power of student devices, offering a more comprehensive and integrated solution that enhances engagement and participation in the classroom.

Whiteboarding Capabilities

The whiteboard app is a central component of interactive displays, serving as the primary tool for lesson creation and management. Let's examine how SMART Boards and Promethean Displays compare in this crucial area:

SMART Boards with iQ

- Advanced whiteboarding capabilities
- Ability to embed images and videos
- Save work for later use
- Share content directly with students
- Integrated image and video search without distracting ads
- Streamlined lesson delivery

Promethean Displays

- Basic whiteboarding functionality
- Require additional effort to incorporate multimedia elements
- Content often needs to be preloaded or accessed via a browser
- Additional preparation time needed

For educators juggling tight schedules, the simplicity and flexibility of SMART's whiteboard app make it the more practical choice. Its advanced features and integrated multimedia capabilities streamline lesson preparation and delivery, saving valuable time and enhancing the teaching experience.

Multi-User Interactivity and Android App Experience

Multi-User Interactivity

SMART Boards: Equipped with advanced touch technology allowing multiple users to write, erase, and manipulate objects simultaneously. This fluid experience mirrors traditional group work dynamics.

Promethean Displays: Offer multi-touch capabilities, but the experience can become clunky with multiple users. Conflicts between gestures and writing tools can disrupt collaboration.

Android App Experience

SMART Boards with iQ: Fast app switching, automatic ink activation, interaction with apps while annotating, and ability to save ink annotations in editable format.

Promethean Displays: Provide access to Android apps but require toggling annotation overlay on and off. Run on Android 12 with limited RAM, resulting in slower performance.

In both multi-user interactivity and Android app experience, SMART Boards deliver a more efficient and teacher-friendly experience. Their smooth collaboration features and seamless app integration contribute to a more dynamic and responsive learning environment.

Budget-Friendly Solutions and Vlcom's Expertise

Cost-Effectiveness

SMART Boards consistently provide greater value through features included at no extra cost. While Promethean Displays may be initially more affordable in some cases, they often require additional investments for certain features, potentially increasing the total cost of ownership over time.

Vlcom stands out as Virginia's trusted education technology integrator, offering not just hardware solutions but comprehensive support, training, and expertise to ensure technology enhances learning outcomes effectively.

Vlcom's Expertise

- Over 20 years of experience in AV, UC, and IT integration for education
- Specialized Education Team led by Dr. Michael Rossi, a former educator and principal
- Comprehensive support and training, including certification programs for teachers
- Tailored solutions for K-12 and higher education institutions

Making the Right Choice for Your School

Choosing between SMART Boards and Promethean Displays requires careful consideration of your school's unique needs. While both brands offer valuable features, SMART Boards consistently outperform in key areas like annotation tools, device integration, and multi-user interactivity. However, the right choice ultimately depends on your school's priorities, budget, and long-term goals.

1

Assess Your Needs

Consider your school's specific requirements, teaching styles, and technological infrastructure.

2

Evaluate Features

Compare the key features of SMART Boards and Promethean Displays against your priorities.

3

Consider Long-Term Value

Look beyond initial costs to consider long-term value, including included features and support.

4

Seek Expert Guidance

Consult with education technology specialists like Vlcom for tailored recommendations.

By partnering with Vlcom, schools can ensure they not only choose the right technology but also implement it effectively, aligning with strategic and pedagogical objectives for maximum impact.

Vlcom's Comprehensive Support and Training

Vlcom's commitment to education goes beyond providing technology solutions. Their comprehensive support and training programs ensure that educators can make the most of interactive displays in their classrooms:



Hands-On Training

Offering half-day, full-day, and multi-day summer programs tailored to educators' specific needs.



Teacher Certification

Providing certification and recertification points to ensure ongoing proficiency.



Continuous Support

Ongoing training for updates, enhancements, and changes in school personnel.



Customized Solutions

Tailoring technology integration to meet the unique needs of each educational institution.

This level of support ensures that your investment in interactive displays translates into meaningful classroom outcomes, empowering teachers to use technology effectively and confidently in their teaching practices.

Conclusion and Call to Action

Interactive displays like SMART Boards and Promethean Displays are reshaping education, offering powerful tools for engagement and collaboration. While both brands have their merits, SMART Boards consistently demonstrate superior functionality and user-friendly design, making them the preferred choice for schools prioritizing innovation and efficiency in teaching.

Vlcom's unparalleled expertise in education technology integration ensures that schools don't just adopt new tools but use them to their full potential. With over 20 years of experience, a dedicated Education Team, and a commitment to ongoing support, Vlcom stands as the trusted partner for making technology work effectively in classrooms.

Ready to choose the right interactive display for your classroom? Contact Vlcom today to schedule a consultation and see how we can transform your classrooms with cutting-edge interactive display solutions.

Don't let the choice overwhelm you. Let Vlcom's education specialists help you navigate the options and implement the solution that best fits your needs. Whether you're looking to enhance collaboration, simplify lesson delivery, or future-proof your classroom technology, Vlcom has you covered. Make the smart choice for your school's future—reach out to Vlcom now!

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